

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, following the paragraph reading “Figure 3 describes the sequence of HEGM(1)-3 (SEQ ID NO:12)” with the following paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 4~~ Figures 4A-4B describe the sequence of HEGE2 (SEQ ID NO:13). --

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 5-12 with the following paragraph:

-- In another embodiment, the present invention provides isolated nucleic acids having at least about 80%, and preferably at least about 90%, and more preferably at least about 95% sequence identity ~~identify~~ to the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides 144 through 1484 of SEQ ID NO: 13. Sequence identity is determined using the program Clustal W described by Higgins et al. (1994) Nucleic Acids Res. 22:4673 and may be calculated using the EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database (~~http://www.ebi.ac.uk/embl.html~~). The ability of the isolated nucleic acid of the present invention to encode a functional glutamate-gated chloride channel can be determined by functional assays as described hereinbelow. --